

REMARKS

By this Amendment claim 1 has been amended to further define the structure of the back frame of the futon and the manner in which it is connected to the seat frame, and claim 6 has been corrected. Since it is submitted that the amendments to claim 1 suffice to place this application in an immediately allowable condition, entry is requested.

In the outstanding Office Action the examiner has rejected claims 1-4 and 8 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Thurow (newly cited), she has rejected claim 5 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Thurow in view of Bridges (newly cited), and she has stated that claims 6 and 9 contain allowable subject matter.

First of all, the applicant thanks the examiner for her indication of allowable subject matter in claims 6 and 7.

Secondly, with respect to the prior art rejections against the other claims, the applicant asserts that they cannot be applied to amended claim 1, or consequently dependent claims 2-5 or 8.

In this regard, Thurow discloses a folding sofa bed which includes a support structure for a seat cushion 14, a back cushion 16 and a leg/feet cushion 18, the support structure including a back frame 30, a seat frame 48 and an extension frame 92. The back frame 30 is bolted to a coupling bracket 34 which in turn is attached to a first pivoting back link 32. The first pivoting back link 32 is attached by a pivot pin 39 to a fixed pivot bracket 50 at an aft extension 42 of the seat frame 48. The pivot pin 39

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enables the back frame 30 to be pivotally displaced relative to the seat frame 48 (see column 4, lines 8-21).

It is clear that the planar back frame 30 is not directly pivotally connected to the seat frame 48, as is now defined in claim 1. And nothing in Bridges would suggest otherwise.

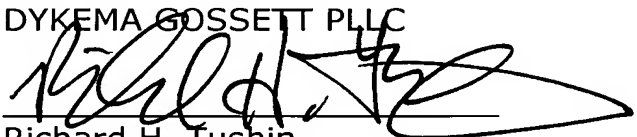
As such, the examiner's prior art rejections based on Thurow should now be withdrawn.

A prompt allowance of this application is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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